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CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ART MUSEUM TRUSTS IN CLEVELAND

At the dinner given to the Trustees of the Museum at the Hotel Statler on January 25, 1915, Judge Sanders was asked to explain the several Trusts created by John Huntington, Horace Kelley and H. B. Hurlbut, providing for the building and maintaining of a Museum of Art in Cleveland, the delay encountered in carrying out these Trusts, and of various problems which the situation presented for solution.

In response Judge Sanders made the following statement :

THE HUNTINGTON TRUST

By the will of John Huntington there was founded the John Huntington Art and Polytechnic Trust, to which organization he directed that one-fifth of the income of his estate should be devoted in perpetuity to the founding and maintenance of an art museum. Please note that this provision is one of income only, the principal of the estate remaining at all times in the trusts established by the will.

THE KELLEY TRUST

Under the will of Horace Kelley, the residuum of his estate was left in trust for the building of an art museum for the general advancement of art in Cleveland.

THE HURLBUT TRUST

By the will of H. B. Hurlbut, the residue of his estate, together with a collection of objects of art, was left with discretion to his trustees to either use his residence for that purpose, or to build an appropriate museum for the housing of his collection, and such additions as should be made thereto.

It so happens that all these benefactors of art died within a few years of each other, and the situation was presented of provision having been made for three independent art museums in Cleveland. Funds were available from the Huntington estate only as income should be accumulated. From the Kelley estate funds would become available only as the estate itself was settled and real property converted into money, while, as respects the Hurlbut bequest, the entire property of the estate was subject to the life use of Mrs. Hurlbut.

The situation presented many problems for solution making long delay in the actual building of a museum unavoidable.

(a) It was certainly undesirable that an attempt should be made to erect and maintain three separate museums in Cleveland, and hence the question at once arose—how, if at all, was it possible to combine the three bequests in such manner as to have but one museum, and at the same time carry out the provisions of the several trusts?

(b) For many years after the death of these testators there was no accumulated income sufficient in amount to justify the erection of a building.

(c) After solving the problem of a practical consolidation of the three trusts and awaiting the time when sufficient accumulated income should be in hand, there remained the important question of the selection of a site and the perfecting of plans for an appropriate building.

(d) It was, then, not only necessary to work out the consolidated plan of action under the several trusts, to select a site and to perfect plans, but, these problems having been solved, there remained the problem of devising and agreeing upon an independent operating agency. The selection of a site has caused no delay, as the beautiful location selected was generously offered as a gift to the Museum by Mr. J. H. Wade, and promptly accepted.

In the tentative plans which were made, the trustees, from the best information which they had, relied upon contributions not only from the Huntington and Kelley trusts, but believed that the bequest of Mr. Hurlbut would yield for museum purposes an amount approximating that which it was expected would be realized from the provision made by Mr. Kelley, and, acting upon these facts, plans were prepared and substantially perfected for the erection of a building, the central portion of which should be paid for by the Huntington trust, and wings upon either side should be erected by the Kelley and Hurlbut trusts. At about the time the plans for this building were completed Mrs. Hurlbut passed away, and, upon settlement of her estate, it transpired that, instead of provision for an art museum yielding, as had been supposed, in the neighborhood of \$300,000 to \$400,000, it would in fact yield less than \$100,000. This changed situation made it at once necessary to make an entirely new plan for a building to be erected by the Hunt-

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ington and Kelley trusts, and again, of course, at once arose the many and varied questions as to style of building, etc., which necessarily must be settled in any large building operations. These questions were finally decided by agreement between the Huntington and Kelley trustees, under which the present structure is being built and nearing completion. This building is paid for in the proportion of seven-tenths by the Huntington trust and three-tenths by the Kelley trust. Such funds or income as will be received from the Hurlbut estate has not yet become available for museum purposes, but it is the hope of the trustees that in the near future the Museum will be in receipt of an annual income from this source of something like four thousand to five thousand dollars.

ADMINISTRATION

By wise foresight, neither Mr. Huntington nor Mr. Kelley attached any condition to his gift as respects the agency which should maintain and operate the museum to be erected, nor as to the name which it should bear, so that the trustees of these respective trusts have felt at liberty to agree upon a plan for the operation of the museum by the joint contributions of the trusts which shall give to the Museum, as constructed and operated, all the advantages of a Museum erected by purely public subscription, in no way hampered as are some museums which bear the names of their founders and are treated, in public estimation, as private rather than public enterprises.

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The trustees, therefore, caused to be created an independent corporate organization under the name of 'The Cleveland Museum of Art,' and this organization, which is legally entirely independent of either the Huntington or the Kelley trust, has made a contract with these trusts as the owners of the museum building, by which it agrees in perpetuity to maintain and operate the museum, and to do all in its power to make of it in every way a success. In this contract the Huntington and Kelley trusts have, upon their part, agreed to make contributions to the Museum as funds are available, for its maintenance and for collections so far as funds become available for such purpose.

Please note that The Cleveland Museum of Art is a representative body of citizens of Cleveland, to which organization

the Huntington and Kelley trusts have turned over the building which is nearing completion, and which is from now on to maintain and control it for museum purposes. Any gifts made by citizens will be gifts neither to the Huntington estate nor to the Kelley trustees, but gifts to the public corporation, The Cleveland Museum of Art.

THE BUILDING

The Cleveland Museum of Art has now come into possession of an art museum building which it is believed is, of its type, of an architectural design beyond just criticism, and provides for the housing and installation of objects of art by the most approved methods. The trustees are advised by competent authority that, in so far as the building and equipment can make a museum, Cleveland will have, in this building, that which is far better than most, and second to none in the world.

THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUM

What shall, in fact, be made of this Museum should not depend upon the unaided efforts and resources of the trustees and of the founders. To the extent that funds are available, the trustees will, of course, care for its maintenance, which alone will amount to approximately fifty thousand dollars a year, but, left exclusively to the resources of the founders' benefactions, it is beyond hope to make of this Cleveland museum that which we think all agree should be built upon the generous foundation provided by Messrs. Huntington, Kelley and Hurlbut.

It is the ambition of the trustees to make of The Cleveland Museum of Art an educational center of art and artistic influence in the broadest sense—to stimulate, to encourage, to educate in an appreciation of the beautiful. To this end, the trustees are already perfecting an organization, and, through the Director, planning for instruction by lectures covering a broad field of art.

If the citizens of Cleveland will but add to the foundation we now have, the same degree of interest and support which is given to like movements in many cities of the middle west, it is no idle dream to predict that, in the not distant future, Cleveland will possess an art museum which shall be a real center of art on this side of the Atlantic. The generosity of a few citizens has laid a sure and magnificent foundation.